

CITY OF BURIEN, WASHINGTON

Art Commission MEETING MINUTES

Date: August 25, 2009

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Arts Commission Members Present:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shelley Brittingham	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Virginia Wright
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Donna DiFore	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robbie Howell
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rochelle Flynn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dane Johnson
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Victoria Hall	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kathy Justin

Staff Present:

Debbie Zemke; Recreation Manager

Guests:

Minutes

Meeting called to order.

Minutes approved. Dane motions, Victoria seconds

AREAS OF FOCUS REPORTS

Arts Education/Aesthetic Master Plan: Victoria and Donna have decided to team up and move forward on the ‘banner’ project. They want to incorporate cultural diversity and are looking at several options. They might make a proposal to the schools to get students involved in the designing process. The project could be promoted as a cultural/history project and be incorporated into the lesson plan. They’d like to make sure there is a ‘textile’ component in the designs. Samples from the classes could be presented to the commission and council for review.

Another option would be to hold a citywide banner design contest to help create a “Burien Identity”. The contest could be promoted to all ages and cultures and groups such as quilting circles.

There was some discussion regarding funding for the project. One possibility is that local businesses might be persuaded to offer funding if the banners are located in their neighborhood i.e. the Ambaum corridor. Dane mentioned that he had made vinyl banners for a B/IAS event for only \$60 each. He said that Judy @ print.com is a good resource if one can buy in quantity. Also, Dane’s neighbors own a print shop in Bellevue and could offer discounts (they did the B/IAS materials for cost).

In other Arts Education business, there was discussion regarding partnering once more with Puget Sound Skills Center (PSSC) to create another public art sculpture. The welding teacher at PSSC likes the idea and would be interested. The first project was funded by the plumbers’ union and it’s unclear whether or not they would be involved. A suggestion was made that PSSC could apply for the Arts and Culture Fund grant.

Public Art/ B/IAS Update: The “Pieces of Eight” event on August 14-16 went extremely well and drew over a thousand people for the weekend. Media coverage included the front page of the Seattle Times and a mention in “The Stranger”. The Friday night portion of the festivities called “Floor Burns” was a hip-hop competition with over 300 participants, and featured DJ Luke Cruz and percussionists. An artist from Los Angeles, who incorporates hip-hop and theatre into performance pieces such as “The NutCracker”, attended and was extremely impressed with the “art in Burien”.

Other parts of the weekend included a showing of the classic movie, “Metropolis” and featured spectacular lighting effects throughout the space and surrounding intersection.

The next event will be “Arts A-Glow” (see special projects).

On November 1st the last event of the year in the space will be “Night of 1000 Pumpkins”. This will potentially include a mariachi band, a beer garden, altars, sand painting, and hopefully the lighting of “the Passage” one last time. Artist, George Rodriguez has done a ceramic depiction of a mariachi band that could be placed in one of the businesses near Town Square.

Sometime after the event the space will be taken down and any existing art removed. Sustainable Burien would like to maintain the ‘pea patch’ gardens and may negotiate with Urban Partners and/or the city regarding the use of the space.

Urban Partners has offered the B/IAS group a six-month extension on the existing lease. Co-Founders Kathy Justin and Dane Johnson elected not to renew the lease. They felt that the winter months would not be conducive to scheduling the space. They are pleased with the great success of B/IAS and are ready to rest and then move on to future projects. They mentioned that some artists on Capitol Hill are organizing a space based on the B/IAS model (possibly called CHIAS). Dane would like to have a conversation after the 1st of the year regarding the B/IAS project.

Other Public Art - Gina will be talking to downtown businesses regarding an interim “window art space” that could feature performance as well as visual art. Also, there is a possibility of installing a mural that was done at last year’s Strawberry Festival in a space near Town Square.

Performing and Literary Arts: Beginning in October, Burien Little Theatre will be offering free play readings on selected Saturday afternoons at 2:00 p.m. The readings will coincide with the scheduled run of the shows BLT is producing and will feature post-play discussions with the playwright, cast and director. The first of these will be “The Undescended”, a brand new play by Washington author, Christopher Bailey, on October 3, 24, and 31.

On October 10, BLT will co-sponsor with the Highline Historical Society a presentation by Book-It Theatre. Book-It specializes in adapting literary works for the stage and this will be a “family friendly” performance. Rochelle will have more details at the next commission meeting.

The Burien Press coffeehouse will be offering community arts nights on Saturdays from 6-8pm beginning November 7. Each evening will feature a different art form including visual arts, acoustic guitars, song circles, and poetry/play readings.

On August 19, Keith Sabado, renowned dancer formerly with the Mark Morris Company, was in town to dance in Fremont. While he was here, he taught a master class in Burien at the New City Dance studio.

STAFF REPORT

Debbie discussed the city’s budget cuts for 2010 and beyond. The arts portion of the 2010 budget

will be reduced by \$150,000. The Arts and Culture fund will be cut by \$10,000, the “Movies in the Park” programs will be cut, and the Strawberry Festival budget will be reduced by \$1,800. The city is in a “compromised” budget situation beyond 2010. Current projects will move forward. Staff will e-mail organizations from the Arts Summit Talks and apprise them of the city’s situation. The will also contact 4Culture and other funding partners.

Arts and Culture Fund: The fund had been increased to \$35,000 for 2009 only and then \$30,000 in the years to come. It will now be reduced to \$20,000 for arts and heritage organizations. A letter was sent in July to potential applicants. The application will be available online September 1.

Dane asked if the city had adopted a new name for the fund to include the heritage organizations. It was suggested that the historical society is the only heritage organization in Burien. However, cultural groups such as Para Los Ninos can also be considered in that category. Also, any arts organization can do a heritage project proposal. Heritage proposals could be taken directly to the city in 2009 only. From now on, they must apply to the fund. The question was also raised as to whether or not funding could be used to hire an executive director for any organization.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the possibilities of changing the name of the fund, and the language in the guidelines, to include the heritage component. Shelley proposed that we continue the discussion and also look at the benefits that arts and heritage groups offer the community. This would be a very good topic for a future Arts Summit Talk.

Robbie, Donna and Virginia expressed a desire to serve on the Arts and Culture sub-committee. Kathy and Dane are tentative and will firm up at the September meeting. The date for the committee to review applications is October 22.

Public Art Plan/Fund: Debbie said that copies of the Public Art Plan are available. We need to revise the plan on an annual basis and allocate funds for various projects. There is still \$40,000 set aside for public art that comes from 1% of parks, buildings, roads, sewer, and transportation projects. To give everyone an idea of costs, Debbie mentioned that the sculpture in the new transit center (funded through King County) cost \$150,000.

Much discussion followed as to the most effective use of the remaining money, including potentially the banner and/or the bus stop projects. Dane had some concern as to the criteria in the plan. He wanted to make sure that it allows for temporary art projects. He feels that they are more cost effective for the city at this time. It was noted that 18% of the fund was spent in support of B/IAS. Debbie proposed forming an ad hoc committee to research the possibilities and make a recommendation.

A resolution was proposed to expand the policies and procedures of the public art fund. We also need to explore other ways to raise money for public art such as fund drives. We need to include the community in this effort.

Art Talks: The last “summit” revolved around marketing. As a result of that meeting, beginning in October, we will be publishing an annual arts brochure that will list non-profit and profit arts organizations in the area. It is being partially funded by the arts groups and by advertising from local businesses. The next Art Talk (October or November) will focus on the issue of space.

We have a vacancy on the commission. There was some discussion as to the application deadline and the process.

There was a brief discussion regarding arts groups being able to post promotional signs. Debbie worked with the Community Development and Public Works Departments to secure a temporary

use permit so the Hi-Liners could post their signs. The next revision of the work plan needs to address the issue of signage for all. This topic will also be discussed at the next Art Talk.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

There was a brief discussion regarding the July 2, “Where WE Live Now” event with Thomas Sieverts. During that evening, the idea of using potential “big box” stores spaces as artist’s studios was proposed. Mayor Joan McGilton and the chair of the BEDP were in favor of the idea.

Arts-A-Glow: It will take place on Sept 12 from 5-10 p.m. in Town Square and the B/IAS space and will include a lantern parade, musical groups, dancers, and “fire arts”. Nine artists applied for grants and 7 were funded for the event. There will be large pieces at the “gateways” and smaller pieces in the bushes, trees and scattered throughout the park. The parade will begin at the James Harrison sculpture and end at B/IAS. There will be kettle corn, hot dogs, and root beer floats. Gina is in need of volunteers to assist with lantern making and other tasks.

There will also be an art walk during the day (10am-5pm) sponsored by Discover Burien. The Kids’ Day event will also be happening at the Burien fire station.

Rochelle moved to adjourn the meeting and Shelley seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned.